

VICTIM RIGHTS EVENT
Tuesday, April 12, 2011
Massachusetts State House

*Shaping the Future, Honoring the Past:
Seeking Healing through Justice*

Survivor Speaker

Janet Connors is a long time community and social justice activist who has lived and worked in Dorchester all her life. She raised three children of her own as a single mother, and is known to many young people as Ma or Mama J. Janet brings over 40 years experience of working with youth and families in community based organizations. She worked as the Survivor Support Coordinator at the Louis Brown Peace Institute in Boston for a number of years. She is currently a Community Fellow and Trainer with the Center for Restorative Justice at Suffolk University and brings restorative justice practices to schools as alternatives to suspension. She also serves as a Board member of Reflect & Strengthen, is on the Leadership team of both Mothers for Justice and Equality and the Family Advisory Committee for the Department of Children and Families, and is a Survivor to Survivor Support Consultant to the homicide bereavement program at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital's Violence Prevention and Recovery Center. A survivor herself, Janet lost her son Joel to violence ten years ago. Her own personal journey brought about a change in policy and practice in Massachusetts that now offers victims the option of initiating and participating in Victim-Offender Dialogue. She has met in restorative dialogue with two of the young men who killed her son and their mothers. She is a compelling public speaker who believes in the power of our stories as mothers.

Paths to Justice Speakers

Erin Gaffney began her career with the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) in 1987. She has held various positions at several institutions within the department, including Caseworker, Transfer Coordinator, and Director of Classification, Programs and Treatment. In her current position as Director of the Victim Service Unit which she has held since 2000, Ms. Gaffney coordinates the Department's notification process and helps ensure that crime victims receive appropriate information and services. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services from Fitchburg State College and a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Suffolk University, and since then has completed training courses with various professional state and federal agencies including those offered by the Office for Victims of Crime, the National Institute of Corrections, Corrections Program Office and the Bureau of Justice Assistance. She is a leader in The National Association of Victim Service Professionals in Corrections (NAVSPIC) and is especially proud to be a Board member of the Garden of Peace, having served as the co-chair of the Garden's Honor Program. In addition, she is the recipient of the Outstanding Victim Advocacy Award at MOVA's 2010 Victim Rights Event.

Dr. Kevin Becker is a clinical psychologist and Director of the Massachusetts Victim Assistance Academy. He is a senior partner with Organizational Resilience International, a global crisis consulting firm, and a Clinical Instructor in the Harvard Medical School Department of Psychiatry. He is also the Director of the Institute for Trauma & Crisis, a division of the Continuing Education Program Inc. at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. He served for 10 years as Director of The Trauma Center in Boston, an internationally renowned research and treatment facility specializing in psychological trauma. Formerly with Marsh Crisis Consulting, he worked with Ambassador Paul Bremer, advising governments and public and private organizations on how best to prepare for the human impact of crisis. He has assisted organizations following major disasters such as 9/11, the 2004 Tsunami, Hurricane Katrina and the Kashmir earthquake in 2005. He was founding chairperson of the Massachusetts Disaster Response Network for the Massachusetts Psychological Association and consults and lectures nationally and internationally. He was also the producer of an award-winning video documentary entitled "PTSD: Beyond Survival".

Undersecretary Sandra M. McCroom Sandra McCroom has a long history of service and active involvement in the Boston community. Before joining the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) in 2008, Sandra served as the Executive Director of Roxbury Youthworks, Inc. for 8 years. Roxbury Youthworks, Inc. has a nearly 30 year history serving system-involved young people and their families in the Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan and surrounding Boston communities. She began her career in Boston as a youth worker, eventually working her way up to executive management. In the mid '90s, Sandra served as the Senior Development Coordinator of the Safe Neighborhood Initiative under MA Attorney General Scott Harshbarger. Sandra returned to state government in 2008 as the Executive Director of the Patrick Administration's Office of Grants and Research. In that role, Sandra managed a staff of 50 employees and administered state and federal grant funds totaling more than \$150 million dollars. In March of this year, Sandra was appointed Undersecretary of Criminal Justice for the EOPSS. Her oversight responsibilities include the Department of Correction, the Sex Offender Registry Board and the Parole Board. Sandra was raised in Ohio, served as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in Thailand, and is a proud graduate of Spelman College in Atlanta, GA.